

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

ARA - MR. ROGERS

ARA-LA/BR - MR. BALLANTYNE

S/S - GSSPRINGSTEEN

ARA - MR. LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143349

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BR, PFOR, OAS, OCON, CU

SUBJECT: LETTER TO SILVEIRA ON CUBA AND OAS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO
FONMIN SILVEIRA AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

QUOTE:

DEAR ANTONIO:

1. IN KEEPING WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING TO KEEP IN TOUCH
ABOUT THE OAS CUBAN SANCTIONS, I WISH TO INFORM YOU OF
SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS.

2. YOUR EMBASSY MAY HAVE REPORTED TO YOU PRESS
SPECULATION SURROUNDING A NEWS REPORT YESTERDAY THAT
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PREMIER CASTRO, IN LETTERS TO SENATORS SPARKMAN AND

MCGOVERN, OFFERED TO RETURN \$2 MILLION RANSOM MONEY
OWED TO SOUTHERN AIRWAYS AND TAKEN TO CUBA IN 1972 BEFORE
OUR HIJACKING UNDERSTANDING WITH CUBA.

3. THE PRESS WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THIS WAS THE KIND
OF POSITIVE STEP BY CUBA REQUIRED BY US BEFORE
RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS COULD BE CONSIDERED. WE
HAVE TOLD THE PRESS: 1) THAT THE TONE OF CUBAN
PROPAGANDA HAS BECOME MORE MODERATE AND THAT CUBA
EVEN HAS TAKEN SOME STEPS; 2) THAT WE PREFER, HOWEVER, TO
NEGOTIATE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN THROUGH
THE U.S. CONGRESS; AND 3) THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT
SUCH NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS. WE HAVE SAID FURTHER
THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WILL OCCUR IN TIME BUT DECLINED
TO SPECULATE WHEN OR UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. REGARDING THE OAS SANCTIONS, I WISH TO CONFIRM THAT
WE WOULD SUPPORT A "FREEDOM OF ACTION" FORMULA AT SAN
JOSE, AS DISCUSSED PRIOR TO AND DURING THE OAS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY. WE CONTINUE TO ENVISAGE THAT ONCE A PROTOCOL
OF AMENDMENT TO THE RIO TREATY HAS BEEN APPROVED AND
SIGNED AT SAN JOSE, AN ORGAN OF CONSULTATION WILL BE CON-
VOKED TO DEAL WITH THE CUBAN SANCTIONS BY MEANS OF A
"FREEDOM OF ACTION" FORMULA.

5. WE HAVE JUST BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FACIO AS CHAIRMAN
AND HOST OF THE SAN JOSE MEETING. ALTHOUGH THE COSTA
RICAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT STIRRING-UP CUBAN
EXILE ACTIVITIES, FACIO'S INTENTION IS TO HAVE AN ORGAN OF
CONSULTATION HELD IN SAN JOSE AT THE END OF THE MEETING
OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES.

6. FACIO IS THINKING IN TERMS OF CONVOKING THE PERMANENT
COUNCIL, THE ONLY BODY EMPOWERED TO CONVOKE THE ORGAN
OF CONSULTATION, AT THE LAST MINUTE IN SAN JOSE TO
AVOID EXCITING TOO MUCH PUBLICITY AND COMPLICATING COSTA
RICA'S SECURITY PROBLEM. OF COURSE, THE COUNCIL MAY BE
CONVOKED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY QUITE EASILY AS LONG AS THERE
IS CONSENT BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT.

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7. FACIO WILL SUPPORT THE "FREEDOM OF ACTION" APPROACH.
WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING ANY OVERT LEAD, BUT DO PLAN
DISCREET CONSULTATIONS IN ORDER TO ASSURE SOME MEASURE OF
ADVANCE AGREEMENT ON A SATISFACTORY "FREEDOM OF ACTION"
FORMULA.

8. I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL TO HAVE YOUR THINKING,
REGARDING THIS COURSE OF ACTION AT SAN JOSE. WARMEST

PERSONAL REGARDS, HENRY. CLOSE QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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